

Office of the Director

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Dear Friend:

It is with great pleasure that I present the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin*. It should be noted that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has compiled agricultural statistics since 1866. The Illinois Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service represents the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the USDA through a cooperative agreement enacted in August 1925. The merging of the interests of these two departments into a single unit has made available much greater resources than could be compiled by each unit separately. The combined effort and harmonious cooperation of the two departments have been largely responsible for the progress that has been made in recent years in Illinois agricultural statistics.

With advances in technology and our current measuring capabilities, compilation of agriculture statistics provides not only basic elements but also is considered an economic barometer.

This *Annual Bulletin* contains user-friendly information encompassing agricultural exports, alternative crops, farmland conversion, fertilizer and chemical utilization, and weather patterns in addition to numerous economic components including farm income, asset and debt levels, farm real estate values and wages for farm labor.

Farmers will find easy-to-read tables and comparisons on how Illinois' production compares to that of other states, as well as within their own county or how it compares to that of other farmers.

Illinois still remains one of the leading agricultural states in the country. I am pleased to present this publication with the cooperation of the USDA and hope you will find this a useful tool in better planning for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Charles "Chuck" Hartke
Director, Department of Agriculture